[15th May 1954

Acquisition of lands for lignite extraction in South Arcot.

* 817 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN (on behalf of Sri V. Balakrishnan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of land acquired for lignite extraction and investigation from land owners in South Arcot area;

(*b*) the total cost of such lands acquired;

(*c*) the total compensation already paid to such land owners; and

(*d*) whether interest is paid by the Government to land owners for sums due to them?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) An extent of 205·59 acres of dry lands has been acquired for the lignite project, South Arcot district.

" (*b*) Rs. 1,12,840–0–3.

" (*c*) & (*d*) The entire compensation amount of Rs. 1,12,840–0–3 has already been paid either to the land owners or deposited in the Civil Court in respect of lands in which there was dispute over the title or in respect of which the owners were not competent to alienate the land. The compensation amount already paid to the land owners is Rs. 79,846–0–4 and the amount deposited in the Civil Court is Rs. 32,993–15–11. The total compensation includes a sum of Rs. 2,535–9–5 being the interest paid to the land owners on the compensation payable for the lands taken possession of prior to completion of land acquisition proceedings."

Omission of 'Viduthalai' from the approved list of newspapers.

* 818 *Q.*—Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that under G.O. No. 62, Education, dated 10th January 1952, the newspaper *Viduthulai* is omitted from the approved list of newspapers to be placed in the reading rooms aided by State Funds; and

(*b*) if so, whether such prohibition applies to reading rooms attached to aided and local board schools?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) 'Reading Rooms' as such are not eligible for aid from State funds. According to the orders issued in G.O. No. 62, Education, dated 10th January 1952, there is no list of approved books or periodicals. Hence the question of omission of 'Viduthalai' or any other newspaper from such a list does not arise.

" (*b*) The purchase of newspapers and periodicals for use in schools is not governed by the orders contained in G.O. No. 62, Education, dated 10th January 1952.

15th May 1954]

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Are the Government aware that this particular daily ' Viduthalai ' is read by all sections of the people including the Members in the Opposition Benches here to find out the views of the other side, and will the Government think of subscribing to this paper for schools and local boards and other institutions? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not know how this question arises out of the main question. As far as reading the daily ' Viduthalai ' is concerned, I never look into it."

Temple in the Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras.

* 819 *Q.*—Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR (on behalf of Sri D. Krishnamurthi Gounder) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether pujas are performed regularly in the temple in the Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras;

(*b*) whether there are any endowments made in favour of that temple;

(*c*) the name of the temple;

(*d*) whether there is any poojari or archaka for that temple;

(*e*) whether any hundi is kept in that temple; and

(*f*) if so, the hundi collections received during 1952–53 and who takes such collections?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) Yes. Pujas are performed regularly, twice a day.

" (*b*) No. Puja is performed by raising donations.

" (*c*) Sri Ishtalingeswarar.

" (*d*) Yes.

" (*e*) Yes. It is fixed to the temple door.

" (*f*) About Rs. 50. No accounts are maintained.

Sri A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—" இந்த இஷ்டலிங்கேஸ்வரர் வெள்ளைக்காரர்கள் இருக்கும்போது குடியேறினாரா ? அல்லது வெள்ளைக்காரர்கள் இந்த நாட்டை விட்டுப்போன பிறகு வந்தார்களா என்பதைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்."

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" For a very long time, Sir."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" From the answer I find that there is a temple here in the Government Estate, Mount Road. May I know whether pujas are conducted in this temple for the long life of the Congress Ministry? " (Laughter.)

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The temple is maintained due to the charitably disposed M.L.As. belonging to the Opposition. It is due to them that the temple is functioning." (Laughter.)